



LESSON 82

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: God's power cannot be restrained.

Bible Character(s): Paul

Scripture Reference: Acts 16:25-34



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read through Acts 16:24-34. God's

power was displayed in a mighty way in this passage. Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned after casting out a demon from a slave girl. While in prison, they prayed and sang hymns, with the other prisoners listening to them. God, in all His power, sent an earthquake that freed Paul, Silas and all of the prisoners. Paul and Silas did not view their sudden freedom as a chance to escape, but rather an opportunity to witness to the jailer, who was about to kill himself after realizing the prisoners had escaped on his duty. Paul and Silas shared about Jesus with the jailer and his household. They were all saved and baptized that night. Through a seemingly hopeless situation for Paul and Silas, God's power prevailed and led to them being saved from prison, and the jailer and his whole household being saved from the judgment of God

How do you see God's power at work in your life? Do you truly believe that nothing can restrain God's power, and everything is possible with Him? What are you imprisoned to right now, preventing you from being free in Christ? Do you believe that God is powerful enough to release you from that prison? Spend a few minutes in prayer as you think about the worldly imprisonment you might find yourself in. Ask God to show you that He is more than powerful enough to release you into the freedom found only in Christ.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Jail Maze

Have campers complete the jail maze on their worksheet.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will discuss God's power in our physical world, as well as God's power to change our hearts and bring us into the freedom found in Christ.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What happened to Paul and Silas? (They were thrown in prison for telling others about Jesus and performing miracles.) **What did they do while in prison?** (They prayed to God, and sang praises to Him so the other people in prison would hear about Jesus.) **How did God respond to their prayers?** (He showed His power by creating an earthquake that freed Paul and Silas from prison.)

Last week we learned about the power of prayer. How did Peter get out of prison? The church prayed earnestly, or hard, for Peter. God heard their prayers. How did God respond to the church's prayers? He answered by sending an angel to lead Peter out of prison. Prayer is our most powerful tool as followers of Jesus. He wants us to depend on Him in prayer. He hears our prayers, and answers them according to His will.

Today we will continue to see how powerful prayer is, how powerful God is, and that His power cannot be restrained. Paul and Silas were teaching in a place called Macedonia. There was a demon possessed slave girl, who could tell people secrets about their lives, following Paul and Silas. Paul commanded the demon to leave her, and it did. Her owners became angry with Paul because she was not worth any money to her owners anymore. These people had Paul and Silas beaten with rods and thrown into prison.

Let's read from Acts 16 [NLT] to see what happens while Paul and Silas are in prison.

Acts 16:25-26

25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. 26 Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

Paul and Silas were beaten before being put in prison. How did Paul and Silas respond to the beating when they were in prison? (Allow responses.) They prayed and sang hymns to God. What were the other prisoners doing? (Allow responses.) The other prisoners were listening to Paul and Silas.

Despite the suffering Paul and Silas endured, they were still praising God. How would you have reacted if you were beaten and then put in prison? Would you pray and praise God? (Allow responses.)

Chains



The purpose is to show how strong chains are, and that God's power is stronger.

Supplies:

Chains (1 set per bin)

Have each of the campers hold the chain and try to break it apart with their hands.

Tie It Together



Were you able to break the chains? (Allow responses.) You were not able to break them, or even loosen them with your bare hands. God sent an earthquake to show how powerful He is. Prison doors and chains were nothing compared to God's power. God freed all of the prisoners because His power cannot be restrained.

As the earthquake from God freed the prisoners, the jailer woke up. In those times, if a prisoner escaped, then the jailer would be killed in the prisoner's place. The jailer knew that he would be held responsible for the escape of all of the prisoners, and he would probably be killed for what happened. How do you think this made him feel? (Allow responses.) He was scared! He was about to kill himself when he heard Paul yell out that all of the prisoners are still there. The prisoners had not left the jail, even though their chains fell off and the doors were opened.

Acts 16:29-30

²⁹ The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

As soon as the jailer found out that Paul, Silas and the prisoners were still there, he immediately responded by asking what he must do to be saved. We do not know how much the jailer knew about Jesus, but he had probably heard why Paul and Silas were put in prison, and he probably heard them praying and singing hymns to God while in prison.

Let's see how Paul and Silas respond to the jailer's question.

Acts 16:31-34

³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." ³² And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. ³³ Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. ³⁴ He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

What did Paul and Silas tell the jailer he had to do to be saved? (Allow responses.) They told him he

must believe in Jesus, meaning he needed to believe that Jesus is Lord and that He died on the cross to save us from our sin. Did he have to do anything else? (Allow responses.) No. He does not have to do a bunch of good deeds, or change anything about himself. He only has to believe and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Did Paul and Silas only share Jesus with the jailer? (Allow responses.) They told the jailer's whole household as well! What did the jailer do next? (Allow responses.) The jailer washed Paul and Silas' wounds. Why do you think he did this? (Allow responses.) The jailer was probably the one who beat Paul and Silas. After the jailer believed, God changed his heart. He desired to help Paul and Silas because God had forgiven his sins. The jailer was saved first, and then he worshiped God by serving Paul and Silas. After this, he and his household were baptized.

How Can I Be Saved?



The purpose is to reinforce belief in Christ, not works.

Supplies:

White board

Worksheet – side with Romans 10:9 heart (1 per camper)

Worksheet cutouts (mouth, heart, tomb) (1 set per camper)

Glue sticks

Write Romans 10:9 on the white board. Have campers glue the cutouts onto the worksheet to complete the verse.

Tie It Together



The jailer asked in verse 30, "What must I do to be saved?" Romans 10:9 states it clearly:

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

The jailer did not wash Paul and Silas' wounds so that he could be saved. He didn't act a certain way, or change his actions so that he could be saved. All he did was believe and trust in Jesus Christ. This applies to us as well. We cannot earn our salvation by doing good things. Romans 10:9 tells us, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." God uses His power to change our hearts and to save us from our sin. If God can cause an earthquake to break chains and open prison doors, we know He has the power to change our heart.

We also see that the jailer and his whole family were baptized right away. Remember when we learned about the Great Commission? Can anyone tell me what the Great Commission is? (Allow responses.) Jesus instructed His disciples how to live their lives as His followers. Matthew 28:19 says, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." We learned that when others come to believe, they can choose to be baptized as an outward symbol of an inward heart change. The jailer and his family showed that they truly did believe by being baptized.

God's Power



The purpose is for the campers to recognize God's display of power.

Supplies:

White board

Ask the camper to give examples of how our world reveals God's power. Make a list of these examples on the white board. (Ex. wind, rain, thunder, lightning, earthquake, ocean waves, etc.)

Tie It Together



Can we do anything to stop God's power? Can we stop the wind or rain? Can we slow down a wave? (Allow responses.) No, that power is too big for us; nothing can stop it! And our world only reveals a small level of God's power! God is more powerful than we can even understand. Nothing could keep God's power from breaking the chains and the locks in the jail, and freeing the prisoners!

Earthquakes, Broken Chains, Death to Life, and Heart Change



The purpose is to review how God displayed His power.

Supplies:

Worksheet – side with Matthew 19:26 chain strips (1 per camper)

White board

Write Matthew 19:26 (NIV) on the white board. Have the campers cut along the lines to cut out their strips of paper. Then have them put the paper strips in order to make the Matthew verse. Then have them create a chain with the strips (in order) to take home.

Tie It Together



God's power cannot be restrained or stopped. Even though Paul and Silas were in prison, God freed them by sending an earthquake to open the doors and loosen their chains. But Paul and Silas did not escape and run away. They saw this as an opportunity to share Jesus with the jailer. God's power saved not only the jailer, but his whole family as well. God wants us to believe in His power and trust that anything is possible with Him. God's power cannot be restrained!

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close Small Group time. Ask God to help us trust in Him and His power to do anything. Pray that each camper would be like the jailer and believe in Jesus.



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